Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 ARA-16 NSAE-00 SY-05
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DRAFTED BY CA/OCS/EHR/ES-EMARTINEZ/JWARD
APPROVED BY CA/OCS/EHR/ES-ESOYSTER
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O 210048Z OCT 81
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 279971

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W: JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: MARTINEZ/LANNON TELCON 10/20

1. FOLLWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON POST OF LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 25, WHICH WAS RECEIVED YESTERDAY BY NEWSPAPER. QUOTE: SEPTEMBER 25, 1981. MR. AMBASSADOR, NEWSPAPER PEOPLE AND THE U.S. CONSULATE. INFORMATION IN YOUR NEWSPAPER IS AUTHENTIC. I AM AN AGENT OF THE HACIENDA POLICE. WITHIN MY RIGHTS TO TELL THE TRUTH TO THE WORLD, I DIRECT THIS TO YOU REQUESTING YOU ANALYSE THIS DOCUMENT, CONCERNING THE DEATH OF THE JOURNALIST MR. JOHN J. SULLIVAN, KILLED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY IN OUR COUNTRY AFTER HAVING REGISTERED IN A HOTEL. (SULLIVAN) WAS CAPTURED BY A CONTINGENT OF THE HACIENDA POLICE, AND WAS TAKEN TO THE BARRACKS AND WAS TORTURE; BY A SARGENT IN CHARGE OF THE MISSION. HIS STATEMENT WAS TAKEN BY AN OFFICIAL, AND BECAUSE HIS SPANISH WAS SO DEFICIENT, HIS STATEMENT WAS TAPED. "HE EXPLAINED" THAT HE WAS A JOURNALIST, AND WAS CONFUSED FOR A BELGIAN PRIEST. ONE EYE WAS WOUNDED FROM THE PHYSICAL TORTURE. HE WAS TALL AND WORE A RING.

A HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS HIS CAMERA, AND HE WAS CARRYING MORE OR LESS 500 DOLLARS WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED. THE JOURNALIST DIED FROM THE BEATINGS AND ELECTRIC SHOCK, AND THEN WAS TAKEN TO A PLACE WHERE HE WAS BURIED WITH OTHERS KILLED. HE ASKED WHERE WAS SAN VICENTE.

I WILL GIVE MY NAME IF I AM GIVEN GUARANTEES TO BE ABLE TO DESERT MY CORPS, AND GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

I WILL GIVE ALL THE DETAILS ON HOW MRSULLIVAN WAS KILLED AND WHERE HIS BODY IS. I DO NOT WANT COMPENSATION; I ONLY NEED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

I WILL SEND THIS LETTER TO VARIOUS NECESSARY COUNTRIES. IN THE NEWSPAPER, WITHOUT PRINTING MY NAME, GIVE ME THE CODE (CLAVE) TO REACH YOUR EMBASSY WITHOUT ANYONE HARMING ME, TO SEND ME WITH GUARANTEES TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

AGENT MORAN IDENTIFICATION 2-26874. SAN SALVADOR, SEPTEMBER 1981.
ANGER WITHOUT MENTIONING THIS CORPS. (HACIENDA POLICE).
IF I CAN GO TO THE EMBASSY SAFELY OR IF I CAN SEEK EXILE THROUGH (ANOTHER) EMBASSY.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO: MR. DIRECTOR OF THE NEWSPAPER WASHINGTON POST. U.S.A. NEWS DEPT. RETURN ADDRESS: BARRACKS, HACIENDA POLICE, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA END OF STORY. UNQUOTE.

2. POST'S COMMENTS RE CREDIBILITY OF LETTER ARE REQUESTED.

3. SULLIVAN FAMILY WAS MADE AWARE OF LETTER BY WASHINGTON POST AND HAS AUTHORIZED USE OF SULLIVAN AD TO CONTACT HACIENDA AGENT SHOULD POST CONSIDER THIS FEASIBLE.

4. PLS ADVISE ASAP. HAIG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 1 5 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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